Modern Family vs. The Brady Bunch

2009-current 1969-1974

Elizabeth Rowe and Taylor Sussman
The Brady Bunch

Plot: The story of a seemingly perfect blended family, the father has three boys and the mother has three girls. Together they become ‘The Brady Bunch’ living in a home accompanied by their hilarious housekeeper. The television show highlighted the ups and downs of the teenage years and the importance of a loving family.

Setting: no city was ever specified, it was assumed that the Brady Family lived in Southern California because of references to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Los Angeles Rams, and the fictional West Palmdale High School.
The Brady Bunch Cast

Cast:
Robert Reed: Mike Brady
Florence Henderson: Carol Brady
Maureen McCormick: Marcia Brady
Eve Plumb: Jan Brady
Susan Olsen: Cindy Brady
Barry Williams: Greg Brady
Christopher Knight: Peter Brady
Mike Lookinland: Bobby Brady
Ann B. Davis: Alice Nelson
The Brady Bunch Family

Mike Brady
Greg, Peter, and Bobby

Carol Brady
Marcia, Jan, and Cindy
The Brady Bunch

Target audience: a show for the whole family

Network: ABC

Aired in 1969

Cancelled in 1974

Creator/Producer: Sherwood Schwartz

Producers: Lloyd J. Schwartz, Howard Leeds

Producer Sherwood Schwartz once said, “It's very rare that a writer knows exactly where his ideas come from.” “However, in the case of The Brady Bunch, I know exactly what inspired that show. It was just a four-line filler piece in the Los Angeles Times. Just a statistic. It said that year, 1965, 31 percent of all marriages involved people who had a child or children from a previous marriage. It was just a statistic, but to me it indicated a remarkable sociological change in our country. Thirty-one percent is approximately one-third of all marriages. That's a huge statistic.”

(http://mentalfloss.com/article/64454/16-things-you-might-not-know-about-brady-bunch)
Modern Family

Plot: A story of three families—one traditional with a husband, wife, and their three children, one gay couple with an adopted daughter, and a multicultural couple coming from two different generations each with children from previous marriages.

Target Audience: Teens and young adults

Setting: Los Angeles, California
Modern Family Cast

Claire Dunphy...Julie Bowen
Phil Dunphy...Ty Burrell
Haley Dunphy...Sarah Hyland
Alex Dunphy...Ariel Winter
Luke Dunphy...Nolan Gould

Jay Pritchett...Ed O’neill
Gloria...Sophia Vergara
Manny Delgado...Rico Rodriguez

Cameron Tucker...Eric Stonestreet
Mitchell Pritchett...Jesse Tyler Ferguson
Lily Tucker-Pritchett...Aubrey Anderson-Emmo.
Gloria and Jay's son—Fulgencio
Modern Family

Writers/Producers: Christopher Lloyd and Steven Levitan

Network: ABC

Airdate: 2009
Television Show Introductions

Modern Family theme song

The Brady Bunch theme song
Modern Family

How was the show received?

- Audiences loved the show
- Won 6 Emmys, including Outstanding Comedy Series
- People think it is "one of the funniest shows on television"

During the time:

- Gay marriage became legal
- Special episode of Cameron and Mitchell’s wedding
How was Modern Family Influential?

Modern Family became one of the first shows to highlight non-typical families. It emphasized that there is no “perfect” family.
Why is Modern Family entertaining?

Modern Family is entertaining to a variety of people because of the different types of characters. Each person on the show is a representation of a certain group of people. The show mocks what an “average” family goes through each day, making it very relatable to everyone. Modern Family also throws comedy into the show making it fun to watch.
How was the show received at the time it aired?

In the beginning, the television show was not as popular as it is today. Currently, reruns are aired on CBS and Me-TV... and many parodies and spin-off movies and shows have been made.

Many find *The Brady Bunch* entertaining now because of its innocent approach to life and the unbelievable and slightly comical perfection of their family.

Today, tweens would be drawn to the television show because of the innocence and insight to teenage life.
The Brady Bunch was so influential and popular that many years after the show’s last season...a superbowl commercial/parody of the famous “ouch my nose!” scene was made for snickers.
The Brady Bunch attempted to steer clear of the social and political issues going on at the time. On screen, there were rarely any non-white characters introduced to the series. Issues surrounding gender equality and women's liberation were shown subtly through brother-sister arguments.

The television show acted as an escape for viewers... *The Brady Bunch* family lived a life where their biggest problems were teenage dating.

What was going on at the time it aired?

- The Vietnam War
- Civil Rights Movement
- The Watergate Scandal
The Brady Children

Season 1

Season 5
Citations


